

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0043], as numbered in United States Patent Application Publication 2005/0096691 A1, with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] FIG. 3 shows ~~a filter 108 within~~ occluder 110 within filter 108, which are disposed about a distal region of hollow push rod 104, i.e., the region that extends beyond outer tube 102. Filter 108 may be any type of expandable filter known in the art. In one embodiment, filter 108 is a tubular mesh of braided filaments with most of the pores having a first pore size for capturing embolic particles. In an embodiment of the present invention, at least one of the pores on a proximal end 207 of filter 108 is significantly larger than the other pores to provide an inlet for the flow of blood and embolic particles into filter 108. In another embodiment, filter 108 comprises a series of filaments or other support struts with a porous membrane mounted over a distal portion thereof, thus forming an umbrella-shaped filter element for capturing embolic debris.